

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is responsive to Amendment filed on 09/05/08.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claim 94 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kitazawa et al.

(Japan Patent No.: 09-026832).

Regarding claim 94, referring to Figs. 1-3, Kitazawa teaches an electronic equipment comprising:

a first housing (i.e., lid member 3);

a second housing (4);

a hinge connecting the first housing with the second housing (fig. 1);

a main display section (10) which is hidden by the first housing and the second housing in a closed state where the first housing and the second housing are closed with respect to each other via the hinge, and is visible in an open state where the first housing and the second housing are open relative to each other via the hinge;

a keyboard (5) which is hidden by the first housing and the second housing in said closed state, and is visible in said open state; and

an auxiliary display section (20) which is located at a portion of the electronic equipment, away from the hinge, and visible in said closed state [0014].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 5, 6, 16, 25, 26, 36, 47, 51, and 83-91 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitazawa et al. (Japan Patent No.: 09-026832) in view of Jahagirdar et al. (Patent No.: US 6,125,286).

Regarding claims 5, 25, and 47, referring to Figs. 1-3, Kitazawa teaches a status display control unit (11) for displaying status information of an electronic equipment which includes a lid member (3), a main display (10) section and an auxiliary display section (20), the main display section (10) being provided at a position of the lid member so that the main display section is only visible in an open state of the lid member, the auxiliary display section (20) being visible in a state in which the lid member is in the closed position and being visible together with the main display section (10) in a state which the lid member is in the open state (figs. 1 and 2) [0014];

a controller (11), operating on an operating system that operates in a normal state of the electronic equipment [0017].

Kitazawa differs from claims 5, 25, and 47 in that he does not specifically teach configuring to display a communication connection status of the electronic equipment using a message representing contents of a communication connection process which is being executed by the electronic equipment, in the auxiliary display section.

Jahagirdar teaches a controller (504), operating on an operating system that operates in a normal state of the electronic equipment, configured to display a communication connection status of the electronic equipment using a message representing contents of a communication connection process in the auxiliary display section (130) (i.e., displaying communication status information such as an "in use" indication and /or a roam indication, or the duration of the call, unit of time used for the call) (col. 5, lines 32-65, col. 6, lines 65-67). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the configuring to display a communication connection status of the electronic equipment using a message representing contents of a communication connection process in the auxiliary display section as taught by Jahagirdar in the system of Kitazawa in order to allow user to view a communication connection status easily and provide to the user a multi-functional device.

Regarding claims 6, 26, and 83, the combination of Kitazawa and Jahagirdar teaches the communication status includes a state during connection (i.e., in use indication), a net communication time (i.e., the duration of the call, unit of time used for the call), or an abnormal state (i.e., low battery warning) (col. 5, lines 54-65 and col. 6, lines 65-67 of Jahagirdar).

Regarding claims 16, 36, 51, and 84-86, the combination of Kitazawa and Jahagirdar teaches the electronic equipment, configured to display communication time and communication

cost of the electronic equipment in the auxiliary display section (col. 6, line 65 to col. 7, line 2 of Jahagirdar).

Regarding claim 87, Kitazawa further teaches the lid member is connected to a first end of a main body of the electronic equipment via a hinge to move, freely, to an open state and to a closed state (figs. 1 and 2); and

The auxiliary display section (20) is provided at a second end of the main body, confronting the first end of the main body (figs. 1 and 2).

Regarding claim 88, the combination of Kitazawa and Jahagirdar teaches the main body (112, fig. 1 of Jahagirdar) has a top surface confronting the lid member (114) in the closed state and a bottom surface confronting the top surface; and

the auxiliary display section (130) is provided on a side surface of the main body, extending between the top surface and the bottom surface (col. 8, lines 5-12 of Jahagirdar).

Regarding claim 89, the combination of Kitazawa and Jahagirdar teaches a keyboard provided on the top surface of the main body (fig. 1 of Jahagirdar).

Regarding claim 90, further Kitazawa teaches the main body (4) (figs. 1 and 2) has a top surface confronting the lid member (3) in the closed state and a bottom surface confronting the top surface; and

the auxiliary display section (20) is provided in a region of the top surface of the main body so as not to overlap the lid member when in the closed state (figs. 1 and 2).

Regarding claim 91, further Kitazawa teaches a keyboard (5) is provided in a region, on the top surface of the main body, that is covered by the lid member in the state in which the lid member is in the closed position (figs. 1 and 2).

6. Claims 92-93 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitazawa et al. (Japan Patent No.: 09-026832) in view of Jahagirdar et al. (Patent No.: US 6,125,286) and further in view of Selli et al. (Patent No.: US 6,433,791).

Regarding claims 92 and 93, the combination of Kitazawa and Jahagirdar does not specifically teach symbols and /or animation is displayed in the auxiliary display section, other than characters, to supplement contents of a message indicated only by characters.

Selli teaches symbols and /or animation is displayed in the auxiliary display section, other than characters, to supplement contents of a message indicated only by characters (fig. 1, col. 3, lines 11-19). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the symbols and /or animation is displayed in the auxiliary display section as taught by Selli in the system of the combination of Kitazawa and Jahagirdar in order to allow user to view quickly a detailed information in a limited display area.

7. Claims 95-98 and 100-103 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitazawa et al. (Japan Patent No.: 09-026832) in view of Jahagirdar et al. (Patent No.: US 6,125,286) and further in view of Duphorne (Patent No.: US 6,212,265).

Regarding claim 95, the combination of Kitazawa and Jahagirdar teaches a controller (504, fig. 5 of Jahagirda) configured to display a message in the auxiliary display section, wherein said controller (504) allows display control in the auxiliary display section to be independent of display control in the main display section (col. 4, lines 27-51).

The combination of Kitazawa and Jahagirdar does not specifically teach the message by characters in full words, indicating reception of an electronic mail by the electronic equipment.

Duphorne teaches displaying a message by characters in full words, indicating reception of an electronic mail by the electronic equipment (col. 8, lines 25-37). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the message as taught by Duphorne in the system of the combination of Kitazawa and Jahagirdar in order to provide information to user.

Regarding claims 96-98, the combination of Kitazawa, Jahagirdar, and Duphorne teaches said controller displays a notification, indicating a reception of a specific electronic mail by the electronic equipment, in the auxiliary display section (col. 8, lines 25-37 of Duphorne).

Regarding claims 100-102, the combination of Kitazawa, Jahagirdar, and Duphorne teaches displaying information, capable of specifying an electronic mail received by the electronic equipment, in the auxiliary display section (col. 8, lines 25-37 of Duphorne).

Regarding claim 103, the combination of Kitazawa, Jahagirdar, and Duphorne teaches displaying the message by characters in the auxiliary display section by scrolling characters (col. 7, lines 60-65 of Duphorne).

8. Claim 99 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitazawa et al., Jahagirdar et al., Duphorne in view of Alloul et al. (Patent No.: US 6,144,363).

Regarding claim 99, the combination of Kitazawa, Jahagirdar, and Duphorne does not specifically teach displaying the notification using color display.

Alloul teaches displaying the notification using color display (col. 2, lines 60-67). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the notification using color display as taught by Alloul in the system of

the combination of Kitazawa, Jahagirdar, and Duphorne in order to view the email message status easily.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicants' arguments filed 09/05/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive because as follows:

In response to Applicants' argument stated "the communication status information such as a simple in use indication and/or a roam indication on Jahagirdar et al. is different from a communication connection status of the electronic equipment using a message representing contents of a communication process which is being executed by the electronic equipment of the present invention". Examiner respectfully disagrees. Applicants' argument stated "different" but did not explain how different. Jahagirdar teaches the communication status includes a state during connection (i.e., in use indication), a net communication time (i.e., the duration of the call, unit of time used for the call), or an abnormal state (i.e., low battery warning) (col. 5, lines 54-65 and col. 6, lines 65-67 of Jahagirdar).

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 5, 6, 16, 25, 26, 36, 47, 51, and 83-103 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JENNIFER T. NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-7696. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri: 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard A. Hjerpe can be reached on 571-272-7691. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/J. T. N./
Examiner, Art Unit 2629

/Richard Hjerpe/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2629